

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9424

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 7140

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EGEN, VE

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S HOUSTON PROPOSALS ON AGRICULTURE

REF: A. STATE 155025 B. CARACAS 6659 C. CARACAS 6845

1. ON JULY 11 I GAVE THE FOREIGN MINISTER A WRITTEN SUMMARY IN SPANISH OF THE INFORMATION IN REF A. I ASKED HIM TO PASS IT ALONG TO THE PRESIDENT, ALONG WITH OUR APOLOGIES FOR TAKING SO LONG TO REACT TO THE PRESIDENT'S SEVERAL EXPRESSIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST IN THESE PROPOSALS.

2. SOMEWHAT LATER IN THE CONVERSATION ESCOVAR SALOM ASKED ME FOR A PERSONAL OFF-THE-CUFF REACTION TO HIS SPEECH AT THE JOURNALISTS' DINNER (REF C). I TOOK THAT OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE SOME GENERAL REMARKS ABOUT RECENT SPEECHES HERE ON INTERNATIONAL THEMES.

3. REFERRING SPECIFICALLY TO THE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS BEFORE THE HABITAT CONFERENCE (REF B), I SAID THE GOV SEEMED TO HAVE RATHER HARSH WORDS FOR US FROM TIME TO TIME. THESE PRODUCE A DISTORTED IMPRESSION OF OUR RELATIONS. I ADDED THE HOPE THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND I COULD WORK TOGETHER TO GET BEYOND THAT STAGE TO A MORE MODERATE TONE. ESCOVAR SALOM REPLIED THAT WE COULD BE ASSURED OF THE GOV'S DEDICATION TO A CLOSE AND CONSTRUCTIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE US AS EVIDENCED BY HIS OWN
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STATEMENTS TO THE JOURNALISTS, AN ESSENTIALLY LEFT-WING, ANTI-U.S.

AUDIENCE. I REPEATED MY APPRECIATION FOR THOSE STATEMENTS AND
MY HOPE THAT WE COULD SOFTEN THE HARD TONE EMPLOYED ON OTHER
OCCASIONS.
SHLAUDEMAM

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Message Attributes

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